teachers. I do not think that a Board of Examiners or a Text Book Committee, composed purely of teachers, is an ideal body.

108. Educational policy of Government, its defects and the means of removing them.

Mr. K. M. Mammen Mappillai (Member, Municipal Council, Tiruvalla) complained that Government were giving a step-motherly treatment to the vernacular. He deprecated the use of English in all correspondence even by subordinate officers, including the officers of the vernacular branch of the Education Department. The gradation list of graduate teachers belonging to the provincial staff required revision. The difference in the pay of English School Leaving Certificate holders in the English and Vernacular schools was a source of genuine hardship. He instanced the case of a graduate teacher in a vernacular girls' school who had put in nearly eleven years' service, but was still getting a pay of only Rs. 22. Munshies, Bhagavatars and sewing mistresses who had put in long service should not be sent away now on the ground that they had failed to pass the newly instituted tests. Grants to teachers in private vernacular schools should be raised and those teachers should be entertained in departmental schools. Panars should be included in the list of communities eligible for fee concessions. Malayalam short-hand and type-writing should be encouraged. Trained F. A. teachers should immediately be given at least two increments in their revised scale of pay. The relations between the Headmaster and his assistants were not cordial in several schools, and with a view to remove that evil, it was necessary that Teachers' Councils should be organised in schools.

Dewan's reply.—The last three matters you mentioned are matters of detail. In regard to the eligibility of Panars for fee concession, it is a matter of detail, and the Director of Public Instruction will enquire and make the necessary recommendation to Government, if the community referred to stands in need of that concession. In regard to Munshies and Bhagavatars passing an examination, I realise the situation. It may be very hard on people with long experience and service to be asked to go out if they do not pass the examination. I shall ask the Director to examine that aspect of the matter and grant exemption from passing the examination to persons who have put in long service and have had adequate experience.

Another matter referred to by you is the one regarding correspondence in English. You say that, at present, correspondence is carried on in English between officers, who should carry on such correspondence in the vernacular. There is no rule which prevents correspondence being carried on in the vernacular, and, so far as I know, it is carried on in the vernacular. I may give the instance of the *proverthikars* with whom correspondence is now carried on only in the vernacular. I do not see the reason why it should not be so in other cases also. Government will issue a circular in regard to this matter. But, let me tell you, it will not be easy to carry on correspondence in the vernacular between the inspecting and the controlling staff, because some of the latter are not expected to be so well conversant with the vernacular ; but between the lower officers themselves, correspondence *could* be and *should* be carried on only in the vernacular.

The two other matters you spoke about are (1) increase of grants to vernacular schools, and (2) encouragement to teachers and officers of the vernacular section of the Education Department. In regard to the former, let me tell you that, when we raised the grants by 25 per cent. a year or two ago, it cost us one lakh of rupees more. You want the grant of Rs. 7½ a month per teacher to be raised to Rs. 10, *i. e.*, by 33 per cent. It will involve a heavy additional expenditure. While I recognise the hardship that is being experienced by grant-in-aid schools, the matter of raising the grant is one in regard to which, I am sorry to say, Government cannot give any ohand reply.

As regards want of encouragement to vernacular teachers, that is a criticism very often levelled against the Government. I do not see any rule which prohibits the transfer of efficient people who are employed in the vernacular section to the English section of the Education Department. If teachers employed in vernacular schools possess the qualification needed for teaching in English

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schools, they may be transferred to the latter schools; but generally they do not possess such qualification. There may be exceptions; no doubt there may be an instance like the one you mentioned of a graduate having put in eleven years' service and receiving only Rs. 22. Perhaps the reason why he is still there is that he is not efficient enough to be in an English school. If there are exceptional cases deserving special consideration, they should be brought to the notice of the educational authorities. Government can only lay down the policy; they cannot attend to each and every individual grievance.

109. Certain suggestions regarding educational policy in Travancore.

Mr. K. I. Kocheepan Mappillai (Member, Nominated) said that he completely agreed with what Mr. K. M. Mammen Mappillai had stated on the subject, and that he did not, therefore, wish to say anything more. He requested early action on the points mentioned by Mr. Mammen Mappillai.

110. The policy of Government as regards the vernaculars.

Mr. Kumaran Velayudhan (Member, Kartikapalli Taluk) observed that the policy of the Government, instead of encouraging the development of the vernaculars, tended to stifle their growth and regretted the abolition of the Malayalam section in the Huzur Office. It was deplorable that, at a time when the importance of the vernaculars was universally recognised, the necessity should have arisen for entering a plea on their behalf in a State which had all along earned a name for their special encouragement. The influence of English had unfortunately proved detrimental to Malayalam and in almost all departments a premium was put on English-knowing men. He thought that the acceptance of the following suggestions would ensure the development of the vernacular.

(1) Malayalam might be declared the court language of the State as of old.

(2) A committee of competent men might be appointed for preparing technical and scientific works in the vernacular.

(3) The subordinate officials might be asked to strictly adopt Malayalam as the medium of correspondence, so far, at any rate, as the people in general were concerned and more especially in the Department of Public Works. Passes for the removal of timber, *chellan* forms, money order forms, anchal receipt forms, etc., which were now printed in English should be printed in Malayalam.

(4) The judgments at least of the Munsiffs and the Magistrates might be written in the vernacular.

(5) Knowledge of the vernacular should be a *sine qua non* for all appointments in the subordinate ranks.

(6) Vernacular translations of all important official papers which are not of a confidential nature should be published in the Gazette simultaneously with their originals in English. The heading on the facing sheet of the Gazette should be printed in the vernacular also.

(7) The statements appended to the State Administration Report should also be translated and embodied in the Malayalam translation of that publication.

(8) The proceedings of the Legislative Council should be translated into Malayalam.

Dewan's reply.—Some of the matters referred to by you are so minor that they ordinarily escape attention. In regard to the publication of the translation in Malayalam of the front page of the Government Gazette, the matter will be looked into.

As regards correspondence in Malayalam, I have already replied to Mr. Mammen Mappillai, and so no further reply is needed.

As regards the Member's request for publishing the appendices to the Administration Report in Malayalam, it has to be remembered that it will require a larger stock of printing type, etc. The matter will, however, be examined.

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